

U.S. EPA Region 3 **Brownfields** ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and a potential for redevelopment or reuse.

In FY98, EPA Region 3 assisted 19 brownfields communities by awarding more than \$4 million for use toward exploration and demonstration of brownfields redevelopment solutions.

Region 3 Brownfields Team

Jeff Barnett (215) 814-3246
James Hargett..... (215) 814-3305
Robert Guarni (215) 814-3269
Brigid Lowery (215) 814-2780
Josie Matsinger (215) 814-3132
Thomas Stolle (215) 814-3129

U.S. EPA, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EPA Region 3 currently supports the following 16 brownfields pilot communities, each awarded a \$200,000 grant.

Pilot Status Awarded in FY98

Ford City, PA
Hagerstown, MD
Johnstown, PA
Northampton County, PA
Reading, PA
Shenandoah, VA
Washington, DC
Wheeling, WV

Pilot Status Awarded Prior to FY98

Baltimore City, MD*
Baltimore County, MD
Bucks County, PA
Town of Cape Charles/Northampton County, VA
Philadelphia, PA*
Pittsburgh, PA*
Richmond, VA*
Wilmington, DE

During FY98, EPA also provided assistance to the following three communities for **Targeted Brownfields Assessments**.

Poseidon Pool, Wright Township, Luzerne County, PA \$24,600*
Shapiro Steel, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA \$25,500*
Cheriton Canning Facility, Northampton County, VA \$17,000*

**Awarded up to \$350,000 in additional funding for the purpose of capitalizing a revolving loan fund for providing financial assistance for cleanup of brownfields sites.*

**EPA contribution.*



FY98 in Review

TARGETED BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENTS

EPA Region 3 has initiated a program aimed at helping municipalities redevelop contaminated properties in their community. Under this program, EPA will conduct Brownfields Assessments at selected sites within the region to aid municipalities in determining the nature and extent of environmental contamination. Region 3 has budgeted \$600,000 toward this effort. Targeted Brownfields Assessments conducted during FY98 include:



Poseidon Pool, Wright Township, Luzerne County, PA – Region 3 Brownfields staff partnered with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, Inc. and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to provide site assessment assistance at a former swimming pool and spa storage and assembly facility. EPA's contribution of \$24,600 toward this assessment is helping to move the construction of an industrial facility forward.



Shapiro Steel, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA – Through Region 3's Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program, an initial site assessment was performed to identify the condition of this former junkyard. Region 3 staff are working with the Wilkes-Barre Office of Economic Development and the Commonwealth to help return the abandoned property to commercial use. EPA contributed \$25,500 toward the assessment costs.



Cheriton Canning Facility, Cheriton, Northampton County, VA – Region 3 staff are committing resources, including \$17,000, to conduct an initial site assessment at this abandoned 70-acre facility. The partnership with Northampton County Officials and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will help redevelop the former vegetable canning facility for commercial purposes.

STATE ASSISTANCE

State Cooperative Agreements – Through the Preliminary Assistance/Site Investigation cooperative agreements, states are able to focus on identifying and assessing brownfields sites. Over the last two years, Region 3 has provided more than \$1.6 million to this effort. Delaware, Maryland and Virginia conducted 16 brownfields site assessments during FY98.

CORE Cooperative Agreements – More than \$1.2 million has been awarded to Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia for the purpose of supporting and enhancing state voluntary cleanups.

Brownfields Tax Incentive Support – More than \$600,000 in cooperative agreement funding has been allocated to Virginia and West Virginia to support the site-specific Brownfields Tax Incentive determinations.

BROWNFIELDS SHOWCASE COMMUNITY

In May 1997, Vice President Gore announced a Brownfields National Partnership to bring together the resources of more than 15 Federal agencies to address local cleanup and reuse issues in a more coordinated manner. This multi-agency partnership has pledged support to 16 Brownfields Showcase Communities — models demonstrating the benefits of collaborative activity on brownfields.



In Region 3, Baltimore was selected as a National Brownfields Showcase Community. The State of Maryland's Smart Growth Initiative helps to set the context for Baltimore's brownfields program, and the state's new Voluntary Cleanup Program will accelerate progress at brownfields sites throughout the city. EPA's commitments will include an additional \$200,000 for site assessment support and \$200,000 to fund a Federal staff person loaned to the city for approximately two years.

Region 3 Brownfields Showcase Community Finalists

Showcase Community Finalists in Region 3 included: Town of Cape Charles/Northampton County, VA, Philadelphia, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Wilmington, DE. EPA contributed \$200,000 to each of the finalists for additional site assessment support.

THE BROWNFIELDS NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

EPA Region 3 has implemented the Brownfields National Partnership on a regional level. On June 16 and 17, 1998, the Region hosted the Brownfields Federal/Pilot Dialogue, bringing together representatives from more than 18 Federal Partners, 4 states, and 14 pilots, to discuss redevelopment issues within the region. In conjunction with the dialogue, Region 3 developed a **Federal Partnership Resource Guide**, outlining many of the Federal resources available for community development, how these resources can be accessed, and a regional contact at each of the agencies. The guide has been used a model for other EPA Regions nationally.

Pictured left is W. Michael McCabe, EPA Regional Administrator, welcoming participants to the June Federal Partners Dialogue. Discussions at the workshop focused on Region 3 communities and the Federal Partners making connections to address redevelopment issues.



FY98 in Review

JOB DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

EPA selected Impact Services Corporation (Impact), a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization, as one of only 11 groups nationwide for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. Funded up to \$200,000 over two years, Impact's training program will build on Philadelphia's status as a brownfields pilot by giving residents in the areas of Fishtown, Kensington and American Street the necessary skills needed for jobs created by brownfields development, and greater access to jobs in neighborhood revitalization projects. Area environmental employers are expected to hire the 30 or more Impact graduates as positions become available.



CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND COLLABORATION

The Brownfields Team has partnered with EPA's Office of Water to promote and encourage pilot communities to apply for low or no interest loans from Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds (CWSRLFs). Primarily used to fund water quality projects, the CWSRLFs can help augment the limited financial resources currently available under the Brownfields Initiative pilot program to help address water quality issues at brownfields sites. Brownfields mitigation to correct or prevent water quality problems may be eligible for this funding which may include: abatement of polluted runoff, control of storm water runoff, correction of groundwater contamination, and remediation of petroleum contamination.

CLEAN AIR/BROWNFIELDS PARTNERSHIP PILOT

During FY98, EPA announced a Clean Air/Brownfields Partnership Pilot to enhance air quality and economic vitality in three cities nationwide, including Baltimore in Region 3. Under the new cooperative initiative, three EPA offices, Air and Radiation, Policy, and Solid Waste and Emergency Response, will be working with the cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the relevant states. EPA will contribute \$400,000 toward the partnership, while EDA will provide an additional \$100,000. Two hundred thousand dollars of this funding (including all of EDA's contribution) will be a grant to USCM to study the relationship between clean air, brownfields assessment and cleanup, and economic development issues in the three cities. The remaining money will be used to quantify the air quality and other environmental and economic benefits of redeveloping brownfields sites within a city instead of developing new sites in the suburbs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about EPA Region 3's brownfields efforts, please visit the following internet site: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>